

POLISH NEWS

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"We are not fighting for a Poland ruled by the nobility, the peasantry, or the workers—nor are we fighting for a capitalistic or socialistic Poland, a Poland of gentlemen or a Poland of farmers—nay, we are fighting for an independent Polish State, free, great, and undivided; for a Poland that will be a mother to her faithful children, a Poland such as our poets prophesied and dreamt of, the Poland of Chrobry and the Jagiellonic dynasty, that Poland for which died the defenders of Hel, Westerplatte, Warsaw, Lwow, and Modlin, for which perished thousands of unknown heroes, and for which other thousands are ready to die at any moment."

I. PADEREWSKI.

THE "ORZEL"'s ESCAPE

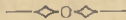
Recently we heard about the action of the French Fleet in Toulon where the screw scuttled numerous vessels in order to frustrate the designs of Hitler.

Is it not a pity, however, that no other means had in due time been taken to save that Fleet for the benefit of the United Nations?

We cannot refrain at this instant from recalling the exploits of the Polish Submarine "ORZEL," the pride of the Polish Navy and the finest submarine in the Baltic.

The situation of this submarine was surely more difficult than the situation of the French Fleet in Toulon. However, one small Polish submarine succeeded not only in escaping from internment but even in passing along close by the enemy's shores and reaching safely the shores of England.

It was a splendid achievement, not accomplished by any other unit of the Allied Fleet.



The decisive day—1st September, 1939—found *Orzel* in the war-base port of Gdynia. After the *Luftwaffe's* first air raid, the boat was ordered to slip anchor and to proceed to her pre-ordained sector in 'Puck's Bay,' to execute underwater patrol duty.

Meanwhile, in Gdansk's Westerplatte, in Gdynia and along the whole of the Polish coast, the battle raged. From the first was evident the grinding numerical superiority of Hitler's air forces which finally swung the scale against us. The brave Polish Army, rich in tradition and glory, had met

the enemy. Our small fleet had stood and fought against the twenty times stronger German Navy and against hundreds of Goering's bombers. In the face of such odds the fate of our Navy was sealed in advance.

The tasks of the remaining five submarines were limited to laying mine-fields, observing enemy ship movements, and waiting for any lucky chance. After the heroic end of our surface ships, and with Germany ruling the Baltic, including the small portion of Polish territorial waters, our submarines left Gdansk's Bay.

Moving out of Gdansk's Bay, *Orzel* headed to the North. Meanwhile, day and night, large numbers of German trawlers and patrol vessels were searching the water surface and close formations of aircraft hovered above the sea. They forced the submarine to navigate in deep waters.

The situation at sea was hourly getting worse. Communication with the home port was broken by enemy action, which had destroyed all wireless stations in the region of Gdynia. Thus also were all tidings of Poland cut off—a Poland desperately defending itself and struggling incessantly.

The physical weariness of the sailors increased ever more. The indefatigable Captain watching day and night over the safety of his ship, fell dangerously ill. But, in spite of this, he would not abandon his post until the last moment. With great self-sacrifice he discharged his ordered duties.

During the evening of the twelfth day at sea, it was decided to enter Tallin, capital of Estonia, in order to send the Captain and Sick Bay Petty Officer, who was also sick, into hospital. They intended to stay for twenty-four hours, to which they were entitled by the 'International Convention of the Hague,' especially as the submarine needed immediate repairs to damaged hydraulic leads.

On the morning of the 13th September, 1939, O.R.P. *Orzel* anchored in the outer harbour of Tallin. A few minutes later representatives of the Government arrived on board, and two patrol vessels belonging to the Estonian Navy led the submarine into the inner harbour.

The *Orzel* was led to the basin farthest away from the mouth of the port and was moored with her stern to the entrance. At once, on mooring, the First Lieutenant approached the harbour authorities to inform them of the reason for the arrival of the submarine. He gained the full consent of the twenty-four hours' stay, and was promised all help for the transport of the sick Captain and Sick Bay Petty Officer to hospital.

In Tallin immediately the refuelling and re-provisions of the ship began. The dockyard workmen arrived on board to repair the damages.

By evening the submarine was completely ready to put to sea. Suddenly, Lieut-Commander Grudzinski, ex-First Lieutenant, now Captain, was called to the Estonian naval officer in charge, and was informed that the hour of their departure had been delayed six hours.

The excuse for this delay was that the German merchant ship was about to weigh anchor, and by international law there must be an interval of six hours between the sailing of belligerent ships. The situation appeared more and more uncertain and complicated. The German ship did not seem to have any intention of sailing and precious time was being wasted. Definite explanation was forth coming later, when an armed detachment arrived on board and the Captain was informed that the Estonian Government had decided to intern the submarine and her crew. They said that this action was based on an agreement between all the Baltic States signed during the first few days of the war.

One of the terms of this agreement, they said, stated that any 'plane or submarine belonging to either of the belligerents would be interned if caught in territorial waters. This agreement was completely unknown to the Polish Government and to the Captain, nor was the submarine informed by the patrol, before they entered harbour, that they would be interned.

A feeling of black despair and rage crept over the crew when they realized how shamefully and fraudulently they were going to be disarmed.

Next morning the work of disarming the ship was started. By midday she was almost completely stripped. Sixteen torpedoes were removed, ammunition, all charts and nautical manuals. All secret papers and confidential books were burned by the Captain.

The German ship, which, of course, did not leave the harbour, proudly re-hoisted the Nazi colours, sure that the breeches had been removed from the guns of the Polish submarine. Meanwhile in the hearts of the Polish crew a new life began to pulsate. The determination to regain their freedom was gradually strengthening in their minds. The sun appeared from behind the clouds as if to encourage them in this idea.

To work, all is not lost yet,

*The Proud-Winged Eagle is eager to take
her freedom.*

They decided to do everything possible immediately, because the longer they delayed the more useless would the submarine be rendered by the Estonians.

Lieutenant Piasecki, the young officer now executing the functions of First Lieutenant, became the soul of this inspiration. He, with the co-operation of Petty Officer A. and Leading Seaman P., worked out the complete plan of escape.

Chief Petty Officer N., pretending to be fishing, accurately sounded the depth in various parts of the harbour along the proposed track of escape.

The coxswain partly cut through the hawsers binding the *Orzel* to the destroyer and to the dock. Leading Seaman Pz. cut off the steel line of the crane, thus frustrating the unloading of the last six torpedoes. Warrant Officer F. completely saved the engines, explaining to Estonians that he must clean and grease them before they removed any parts.

During the morning the Chief Petty Officer Telegraphist partly dismantled the wireless, but after lunch, when it was decided to escape, he assembled the parts again with the help of the Estonian guard. This he contrived by giving him a part to hold and then causing a short circuit, which gave the guard a shock and produced blue flame and smoke from the set. He then explained that he had stripped the set wrongly and would have to assemble it again to do the job properly. He received full consent and help from the guard and by tea-time had the set in working order again.

At six o'clock in the evening the First Lieutenant switched on the gyro-compass in the presence of the Estonian officer, explaining that the humming noise thus produced was from an additional night ventilation fan. Meanwhile the gunnery crew had not been idle, and, under the Chief Gunner, they prepared a modest gift for the German ship. This consisted of a bunch of hand-grenades, fixed together to form a bomb. They considered the German influence in Tallin too strong to consider the port as neutral any longer. So as not to create suspicion, they all turned in at their usual time.

At two o'clock in the morning, Leading Seaman O. crept up behind the guard on the bridge, who managed to shout once before he was throttled.

The guard in the control-room heard the shout but before he could do anything he found himself covered by a revolver in Petty Officer Ol.'s hand, and at the sight of his face the guard fainted. A few seconds later all the lights along the docks went out and darkness covered everything. Disorder broke out in the docks, but the *Orzel* slipped her hawsers and made out for the jetty.

Machine guns opened fire and a hail of bullets swept the *Orzel's* bridge, where the Captain and helmsman were lying prone while navigating the ship. Suddenly there was a terrific shock and the *Orzel* stopped with her bows stuck on a sandbank in the middle of the harbour. At once an order was flashed from the bridge to the engine-room, and almost immediately it was answered by the increasing roar of the engines as they were put full speed astern. The blue-black smoke from the Diesel engines covered the submarine making her completely invisible to the Estonians.

A few minutes later the *Orzel* was outside the harbour, and with her slightly damaged bows was cutting the Baltic once again.

The 11-inch coastal guns opened fire, and when the shells appeared to be getting close to her, the *Orzel* dived. Once more she was free. With a damaged ship, without guns, charts or navigational books, her crew began the next stage of their

adventures, which lasted for four weeks in the Baltic Sea.

To fool any pursuers, *Orzel* headed first of all towards the Swedish coast.

Three weeks after the escape from Tallin their supply of fresh water and fuel became dangerously low. Complete physical exhaustion was the lot of all.

On the 12th of October they arrived at the entrance of the 'Sund.'

The attempts to break through the straits during daylight failed as they are ceaselessly guarded by German patrol vessels and trawlers. Attempts were repeated in the dark, moonless night. *Orzel* surfaced very close to an unknown ship which, fearing collision, switched on her navigating lights. The Polish submarine submerged again. Heavy rain started, and for the first time in many weeks the weather was favourable to the Polish seamen.

The Captain decided to pass through the straits, very close to the shore considering the risk of the existing mine-field. He surfaced again.

All the next day *Orzel* lay on the bottom of the straits, 90 feet in this part, very close to some unknown wreck. Before nightfall *Orzel* surfaced and entered the Kattegat.

Already they were almost safe.

On the second day out from the Skagerak, in the North Sea, the Captain signalled the British Admiralty in plain language, informing them of the *Orzel's* escape, and their present position, where they would await further orders. This was an extremely risky thing to do, in view of the possibility of the message, with its indication of position being intercepted. But once again their luck held and they were picked up by a British destroyer, despatched by the Admiralty to meet them, and escorted to Port.

After a few weeks in dock, the *Orzel* began normal submarine patrol duties, thus opening a new chapter in her brave story.

NEWS FROM AND ABOUT POLAND

THE GROWTH OF THE POLISH ARMED FORCES.

The Polish Prime Minister, General Sikorski, stated in an order of the day issued on September 28th, that the organization of the Polish Armed Forces had been completed. He also said that a certain number of the Polish groups from Russia would come to Great Britain.

General Sikorski declared, moreover, that he was doing his best to increase the strength of the Polish Air Force, and organize it on a more independent basis. He was sure that both these aims would be reached. Also the Polish Navy and Merchant Marine were steadily on the increase. The Polish Army,—the Prime Minister continued

—would soon receive the necessary manpower which would enable it to carry out the existing plans for the extension of the First Army Camps. In the Middle East there would be one large Polish force, consisting of the Polish detachments from Russia and the troops who had so valiantly fought at Tobruk. The Polish Armed Forces would receive the most up-to-date equipment, strong artillery, modern means of communication, and an adequate Air Force and Navy.

GEN. SIKORSKI IN U. S.

The Polish Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief, General Sikorski, has arrived in the United States at the invitation of President Roosevelt.

Future strategy in Europe and the disposition of the Polish army in the Middle East were among the subjects discussed by the Polish Premier General Sikorski, in conferences in Washington with the United States Army, Air and Navy Chiefs of Staff and Field Marshal Sir John Dill.

Gen. Sikorski saw President Roosevelt twice.

POLISH ARMY IN MIDDLE EAST IS KEEN TO FIGHT

General Boruta-Spiechowicz on his arrival from Russia and the Middle East made the following statement :

"Polish soldiers in the Middle East represent military material of the greatest value. They are the best soldiers, both from a moral and physical point of view, and have endured and survived exceptional hardships. Their slogan was 'We shall win through.' They dream only of taking part in the fight as soon as possible. When in Teheran I had to send a number of older men and others below par to the auxiliary services. They came to me as one man, begging to be allowed to fight in the ranks. This ardent desire to fight, this burning desire for revenge, is one of the most splendid characteristics of these soldiers. They sometimes feel the fear that the war might finish without their having taken an active part. Not at any price do these soldiers want to return to Poland, solely as sufferers and martyrs. They want to return as victors and avengers."

SIKORSKI LAUDS POLISH NAVY AT "FETE OF THE SEA"

At the Polish "Fete of the Sea"—*Swieto Morza*—General Sikorski met high officers of the Polish Navy and said: "After the last war Poland rightly claimed a free and wide access to the Baltic Sea, but did not get it. This was one of the blunders that led to the present war. During the twenty years of its independence, the Polish nation tried

hard to make the sea a strong point of support. The German attack brutally broke our effort and destroyed its marvellous results. The heroic defence of Hel and Gdynia, the glorious fights of our Navy covered the Polish Ensign with glory. Today Poland's Navy is stronger than ever on the seven seas, and Polish sailors have won the admiration of the world. The Polish Merchant Marine is taking an active part in the battle of the Atlantic—for the Freedom of the Seas and for the free flow of war supplies.

"Poland must possess a free and wide access to the sea. This is a condition of her strength, of her relations with the great powers, and of her lasting independence."

POLISH BRAVERY AT SEA

The following are two stories of Polish heroism at sea—one of a Polish destroyer in a Russian convoy, and the other of a Polish submarine in the Mediterranean.

For five days and five nights the Polish destroyer *Garland*, one of the ships escorting a convoy to North Russia, fought back attacks by enemy dive-bombers and torpedo-carrying planes. So well indeed did she fight back that the torpedo-carrying planes could not approach to a decisive range and all the torpedoes missed. On the fourth day a Ju. 88 succeeded in dropping a stick of four bombs close to the *Garland*. A wall of water and smoke hid her. Later the commanding officer of one of the British escorts said:

"When I saw this happen I said to my officers, 'That's finished the Poles—what a tragedy! They fought so magnificently.' But I didn't have time to finish what I was saying as out from behind a wall of smoke and water emerged the *Garland* still firing with all her guns."

The *Garland* was undamaged and able to carry on the fight, but several of her crew had been killed or wounded by splinters. The ship fought on for another seven hours until the raids ceased. The wounded were attended to and the killed were immediately replaced at their posts, so that the fight could be carried on. Meanwhile, the ship's doctor operated in the ward-room on several severely wounded men. For more than thirty hours he was without a moment's rest. The gunnery officer, himself wounded in the neck, did not for a moment allow the gunfire of his ship to cease, and when no more gunners were left on some of the guns he organised crews of mechanics and cooks, who carried on magnificently and kept the guns in action.

One rating, sole survivor of one of the gun crews, continued unaided to keep his gun in action

until a reserve crew came to help him. A supply petty officer, mortally wounded and knowing that his last moments had come, calmly handed over his duties and the keys of the store rooms to a colleague. Another rating, before he died, sang at the top of his voice to his friends manning the guns, cheering them on and encouraging them to keep up the fight.

Every man in the *Garland* fulfilled his duties until the end with courage and calmness. And the convoy got through.

While on duty in the Mediterranean the Polish submarine *Sokol* sighted a convoy which took refuge in an Italian port and the Poles risked all in an attempt to enter the harbour. They found themselves in a precarious situation when their vessel became entangled in an anti-submarine net. Despite determined attacks by enemy aircraft and the dropping of countless depth charges, they escaped. Apparently believing that the submarine had been destroyed, the Italian convoy set sail again on the following day. The Poles, who had been lying outside the harbour overnight, seized their chance. Their torpedoes sank a destroyer and two supply ships. *Sokol* is Polish for falcon, and a falcon, of course, is a bird of prey.

LEASE-LEND AID AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S.

An Agreement between the Government of the United States and the Government of Poland on the principles applying to mutual aid in the prosecution of the war was signed on July 1, 1942. Poland becomes the fifth country to sign such an agreement with the United States.

The provisions of the Agreement with the Government of Poland are the same in all substantial respects as the provisions of the agreements heretofore signed between this Government and the Governments of the United Kingdom, China, the Soviet Union and Belgium. As in the case of the agreements with those countries the Agreement with Poland was negotiated under the provisions of the Lease-Lend Act of March 11, 1941, which provides for extending aid to any country whose defence is determined by the President to be vital to the defence of the United States.

The United States and the other Governments which sign such agreements pledge their material, as well as their spiritual, resources to a common victory of the United Nations. All of these countries are signatories of the Declaration by the United Nations.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S ASSURANCE TO POLES

Victory is as inevitable as sunlight, declared President Roosevelt, in a message to a meeting of

the Polish American National Council held recently at Buffalo.

The President made this "solemn promise"; First, that there will be just punishment for the ringleaders responsible for organised murder of innocent persons and commission of atrocities which have violated every tenet of the Christian faith; secondly, that Poland shall rise again.

POLISH REFUGEES GRATITUDE

Eight thousand Polish civilian refugees from Russia, now in Tanganyika, Uganda and East Africa, will never forget the way they were cared for by the British on arrival, says a Polish Telegraph Agency's special correspondent in the Middle East. "Everything was prepared and organised in the best way," he says. "English women covered hundreds of miles to distribute toys and sweets among Polish children. Bungalows in Tanganyika, where a German Lutheran congregation was established, have been handed over to the Poles, who were told to consider it as "the first reparation for villages destroyed in Poland."

POLAND AND RUSSIA

The Soviet Government, which less than a year ago was formally at war with the Polish Government here, and in occupation of half of the country, to-day joined President Roosevelt and Eduard Benes, president of the Czechoslovak Government-in-Exile, in assuring Poles of its sincerest wishes for Poland's freedom.

Foreign Commissar Vyacheslav Molotov, on the occasion of Polish National Day, cabled President Wladyslaw Racziewicz and Premier General Wladislas Sikorski of Poland:—"I am sending on behalf of the Soviet Government my sincerest wishes for the success of the Polish nation in her struggle for liberation from the German and Fascist oppressors and for the rebirth of a free Poland."

DAY OF PRAYER FOR POLAND

On the 9th December a Roman Catholic day of prayer for Poland was held throughout Britain. Cardinal Hinsley, in a service at Westminster Cathedral, denounced Germany's treatment of Jews.

PENALTY FOR CRIMES

Death is to be the penalty for Nazi crimes in Poland which have caused death or "special suffering" described in a Polish Cabinet's decree which was announced at a special session. Persons giving orders for criminal actions will be equally subject to punishment as those carrying out the action.

The decree states that criminal responsibility attaches to those persons belonging to the German Reich or to States allied or connected with it, as well as persons in the service of the German Reich or those States during the war for crimes committed after August 31, 1939. Contraventions of International Law, which are harmful to Polish State institutions and firms and to Polish citizens, will be punished by imprisonment, which will be increased to life imprisonment or death penalty if those actions caused the death, special suffering, deportations or transfers of populations, imprisonment of individuals, general danger to human life, compulsory military service in foreign armies, or destruction or damage to property of general national value. The Polish Government already possesses detailed evidence of more than 3,000 Germans who have committed serious crimes against the Polish population.

RETRIBUTION

Replying to a question in the House of Commons by Mr. Graham on the subject of the compulsory recruiting of Poles for the German army, as well as the persecution of the Lwow Professors by Germans, the British Foreign Secretary, Mr. Eden, condemning the German crimes, said :

"His Majesty's Government has received information regarding this and similar crimes and violations of International Law committed by the German occupying authorities. I am glad to have this opportunity to remind those authorities and also the Polish people who are showing such tenacity and fortitude in their present trial, of the Prime Minister's statement of October 25th last, that retribution for such crimes must henceforth take its place among the major purposes of the war."

* * *

A group of Polish soldiers belonging to the 269th German Infantry Division, went over to the Soviet side at the front, near Wolchow. One of these soldiers, Wacław B., from Western Poland stated that the Germans mobilized a number of Poles in all age groups in the Spring of 1942, but all the Poles determined to go over to the Soviet at the first opportunity.

EXPROPRIATION

Immediately after invading Poland, the Germans started to dispossess Poles on a large scale. Not only Polish state properties, but also privately owned enterprises were taken over by German institutions organized for that purpose.

The German expropriations assumed gigantic proportions in areas incorporated into the Reich (Western Poland, Upper Silesia, and the Lodz district). By an order of Field Marshal Herman

Goering, administrator of the German Four Year Plan, all property in that area is subject to confiscation if :

1. the owners are Jews ;
2. the owners had fled ;
3. the owners had acquired the property after September 1, 1939 ;
4. the owners had settled after October 1, 1918 on territory which, previous to 1914, belonged to the Reich.
5. the property is required in the public interest and, in particular, in the interest of the defence of the Reich, or of the strengthening of the German element in the country.

The last paragraph (5) of Goering's order is so general and vague that practically all Polish property can be confiscated, as any confiscation will undoubtedly "strengthen the German element in the country."

The administration of confiscated properties is centralized in the *Haupttreuhandstelle Ost* (The Main Trustee Office of the East) the duty of which is "the conscription, seizure and exploitation of the property of the former Polish State, and trade and urban properties of former (?) Polish citizens." In two years' activity, this institution has taken over approximately 230,000 firms, both industrial and commercial, and 187,000 urban properties (according to the *Vierjahrplan*, October 1941).

Haupttreuhandstelle-Ost distributed many confiscated properties among German corporations, the most important transfer consisting of all the coal mines in Upper Silesia owned by the Polish State or Jews which were handed over to the Herman Goering Werke, which, in this way became the largest mine operator in Upper Silesia. The steel and iron works of the Dabrowa Corporation went to *Stahlwerkverband Duesseldorf*. The Boruta Chemical Works, in Lodz were taken over by *Interessengemeinschaft Farben Industrie*. The largest paper mills in Poland, Steinhagen Co., were transferred to a German corporation organized especially for that purpose. Incidentally, it is worth mentioning that the legal owners of these mills the Steinhagen family, could have kept their property, worth several million dollars had they declared themselves German nationals. Yet, though they became Poles only two generations ago, the Steinhagens chose confiscation rather than declare themselves "Volksdeutsche."

The exact confiscation figures are not known. There are however, some data that though fragmentary, give a general idea of the magnitude of Ger-

man action. In the Lodz district alone, the Germans confiscated 35,000 industrial and commercial firms, of which 70 were banks, 3,500 textile mills and textile trading firms, 800 large corporations, 500 wholesale firms,* and 8,500 retail stores. Some of these confiscated properties were handed over to Germans, some closed. According to the *Berliner Boersen Zeitung* (December 11, 1941), the Lodz industry employed, before the war, 108,623 workers, as compared with 89,000 employed in the fall of 1941. The number of active mills was reduced to one-third of the pre-war total; the victims of German action were, evidently, small and middle-sized mills and workshops.

In the Warthegau district, according to an official statement of Gauleiter Greiser, up to the middle of 1941, 900 industrial firms and 923 commercial enterprises were confiscated. Furthermore, 1,848 industrial firms and 2,680 commercial enterprises were taken over by German managers. Even small Polish and Jewish workshops did not escape annihilation. According to Greiser, out of 10,000 enterprises in the Warthegau province in July 1941, only 2,000 were in Polish hands, and even these were left only "till the end of the war."

In the territory incorporated into Germany, besides the Main Trustee Office of the East, there is also another German institution for expropriation; namely the "Receiving Company for Veterans enterprises," charged with "the registration, restoration and transfer of farms, business firms and small industrial plants formerly run by Poles or Jews into German hands." According to *Kattowitz Zeitung* (March 17, 1942) in Upper Silesia alone, about 700 properties were ready for their new occupants, German veterans, while, in the Warthegau, the number of such properties amounted to 2,000. According to the same source by the end of 1942 some 3,000 more properties will be ready for German veterans. Half of them are now operated by temporary German managers.

The situation in the General Gouvernement is not much better. The headquarters of the General Gouvernement in Cracow boasts of a special "trustee fund" which "takes care" of Polish State properties and enterprises, the owners of which fled abroad or, for any other reason, "failed to exercise the right of ownership" or "may be regarded on account of their behaviour as incapable of exercising it in the future." Here, again, is a vague statement that enables the Germans to confiscate any property.

In October 1940, a special German corporation, *Die Werke Des General Gouvernement* was organized in Cracow. The aim of the corporation is to take over and operate industrial enterprises owned by

the Polish State. According to *Neue Zuercher Zeitung* (February 18, 1942), the corporation has taken over such large enterprises as: Moscice Corp. (fertilizers, carbide, etc.), Niedomice Works (Cellulose), Ozet Electric Works, and Zyrardow (largest linen mills).

Die Werke Des General Gouvernement organized in October 1941, a subsidiary company, *Ost Energie Aktien Gesellschaft*, with 18,000,000 zlotys capital. The subsidiary takes over larger electric plants located in the General Gouvernement and in the near future will control practically all the electric power in that part of Poland.

The exact amount and value of the property confiscated by the Germans is unknown. The figures specified show, however, that the expropriation is on a large scale, and that the invaders, with typical Teutonic ruthlessness, and German thoroughness are attempting to reduce Poles to the status of slaves working for their master, the "Herrenvolk."

PERSECUTION OF THE CATHOLIC RELIGION

Himmler has published an order concerning religious cult for the Polish workers employed in the Reich. The order permits:

- 1) To attend Divine Services only on the first Sunday of every month and on holidays, between 10—12 a.m.
- 2) It is prohibited to use the Polish language or to sing Polish religious songs. Confession may not be made in Polish.
- 3) It is prohibited to the Poles to attend the Divine Services held for the Germans, and to the Germans to attend those held for the Poles.
- 4) Divine Services for Poles may be suspended by the German authorities.
- 5) Marriages among workers of different nationalities are prohibited.
- 6) Religious instruction, the catechism and confirmation are prohibited to the children of the Polish workers.

NAZI RUTHLESSNESS IN POLAND

More ruthless methods are being used in Poland to give effect to the order by Himmler that half the Jewish population must be exterminated by the end of the year.

A special battalion commanded by SS men seize victims. Old people and cripples are taken to cemeteries and shot there. The remainder are loaded into goods trucks at the rate of 150 to a

truck intended for 40. The floor is covered with a thick layer of lime or chlorine sprinkled with water and the doors of the trucks are sealed. Wherever trains arrive half the people arrive dead. Those surviving are sent to special camps. Once there, the so-called settlers are mass murdered. Only the young and relatively strong are left alive, for they provide valuable slave labour for Germans. By the end of September a quarter million Jews had been "eliminated."

The Jewish population of Warsaw had already been halved and the Nazis established the price of 50 Reichsmarks for each corpse obtained under the extermination plan for Jews in Poland. The Germans are reclaiming the bodies of slain civilians to be "processed into war-time commodities such as soap."

* * *

A training camp for sixteen-year-old girls has been set up in Cracow. These girls will be sent to German "hotels" as probationary maids.

TWO LETTERS SMUGGLED FROM GERMAN PRISONS, WRITTEN BY POLISH PRISONERS

1ST LETTER

Dear Parents,

My torture draws to an end. Day before yesterday I was sentenced to death. Several Poles will be executed to-morrow. I hope that this letter will reach you. I would like you to know that recently I was in the prison . . and that I shall be executed in near do not know what death is chosen for me, however, to-day I state that it will, in any case, be nothing in comparison to the tortures inflicted on me during the last six months and nineteen days . . .

It is not difficult for me to die after what I have lived through, they have obtained nothing from me which could hurt other persons. I am only sorry that I cannot see the priest before my death. I bless you in this world, but you must live with faith in Poland and in God. Say good-bye to Franek and tell him that I am leaving him and that I believe that when the right time comes he will avenge my tortures and my death and he will punish first of all those who betrayed me. I am sure that Franek knows who the betrayer is. Knows that I die with the words on my lips—"Poland will live again."

2ND LETTER

I am isolated. I am feeling frightful. I am starving and death by starvation is the worst kind of death; I would not like to be shot or to starve... Up to now I have been interpellated on the 20th

January, 30th January and 2nd February. Depositions were taken during the torture. During the first examination they took off everything and beat me on my head with dull instruments. My skull was split on the left side. My whole body was beaten with a rubber stick and a hammer. Over and over again I became unconscious; there were nine tortures. I was beaten incessantly for some hours, during that time they took statements. . . .

The other time they again took off everything and beat me and investigated me in the same manner as during the first examination. That time they beat me with a rubber stick and with a whip with weights on the end.

UNDERGROUND

POLES BLOW UP NAZI BARRACKS.

A heavy bomb planted by Polish patriots exploded in a Nazi barracks in Warsaw and killed 18 Nazi soldiers.

The reports also told of the shooting of three Nazi officers and nine soldiers in a Warsaw suburb and said that many others were killed when a bomb exploded in a theatre attended by Nazi officers and soldiers on leave.

* * *

By throwing quantities of nails on the roads, Poles are causing great damage to the tyres of German lorries.

POLISH—CZECHOSLOVAK COLLABORATION

ELEVENTH NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARY

Under the auspices of the Polish-Czechoslovak Collaboration Committee the Poles and Czechoslovaks residing in Bombay commemorated on the 14th November the second anniversary of the joint declaration of the Polish and Czechoslovak Governments signed in London on November 11, 1940.

The Consul General for Poland in his speech underlined the importance of the Polish-Czechoslovak agreement, laid down in 14 points, assuring a common policy with regard to foreign affairs, social welfare, finance, communications, posts, and telegraphs.

The Consul for Czechoslovakia, who spoke next, stressed the fact that the success of the declaration will depend principally on the mutual understanding and friendship of all nationals, Czechoslovak and Polish, and ended by quoting the late Presi-

dent Masaryk who said that without a free Czechoslovakia there could be no free Poland and vice versa.

The present agreement goes a step further and uses this political and national interdependence for the purpose of fruitful collaboration and friendly relations which will surely result in a strong Poland and a strong Czechoslovakia.

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The 24th anniversary of the restoration of Poland's independence and 2nd anniversary of the joint declaration of the Polish and Czechoslovak Governments were commemorated on the 11th November 1942 in Calcutta by the local Polish community and representatives of Czechoslovaks.

Solemn High Mass was celebrated by Father Leon Piasecki at the Cathedral in Portuguese Church Street.

POLES IN INDIA

POLISH CHILDREN IN INDIA

The Jam Saheb Maharaja of Nawanagar, Chairman of the Indian Chamber of Princes, is at present staying in London where he represents India in the War Cabinet, together with Sir Mudaliyar. On the Maharaja's territory, in beautiful surroundings, more than a thousand Polish children from Russia have found refuge. The Jam Saheb was the first Indian Prince to offer hospitality to Polish Orphans from Russia. Others followed his examples, and to-day accommodation for several thousand Polish children is being prepared in India. H. H. the Maharaja of Nawanagar who had a long conversation with Gen. Sikorski, the Polish Prime Minister, made the following statement :

"Being deeply moved by the sufferings of the Polish Nation, and especially of those whose youth is now spent during the most terrible war history, I wanted to do something to improve their fate. Therefore I offered them my hospitality on a territory which is far from the atrocities of war, hoping that there the children would recover from their sufferings and forget the evils of the past. They will be able to gather new strength there for the work they will be called upon to perform in the future, in their own country which will then be free once more.

Six weeks after I had been informed of the date of the children's arrival, a complete camp, consisting of furnished bungalows, stood ready to accommodate the Polish guests. This camp is situated at Balachadi, about 20 miles from Jamnagar, the capital, and at about the same distance

POLISH-CZECHOSLOVAK FRONTIER MR. EDEN'S STATEMENT

SIR D. GUNSTON : While congratulating the Government and all its Members on denouncing the Munich Agreement, may I ask my Right Hon. Friend whether his statement in any way affects the frontier between Czechoslovakia and Poland?

MR. EDEN : My answer deals with the Munich Agreement. The point which my Hon. and Gallant Friend makes, if I understand him aright, concerns the frontier between two allied countries, and I have every confidence that that will be dealt with on the basis of the close and friendly relations which now happily exist between them.

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from the nearest railway station. The difficulties resulting from this situation were quickly overcome. The bungalows had to be repaired, and the ground to be cleared. Even a new road was built, one mile long, and telephone as well as water-pipes were laid. Soon afterwards the first group of about 250 children, under the care of 20 guardians, arrived in the camp. Mrs. Banasinska, the wife of the Polish Consul General in Bombay, accompanied the children, and saw to their being well accommodated in their new home.

The arrival of the second larger group (about 750 children) was delayed for a short time, because the railway tracks had been damaged by floods. The children were meanwhile waiting in Quetta. At present all of them are already in the camp at Balachadi.

I have now declared my readiness to accommodate more children, up to 5,000. For that purpose a new camp will soon be erected near Jamnagar. When the children arrive, their health is, of course, not very good, most of them had to undergo dental treatment, and many cases of appendicitis had to be operated. For that reason I gave orders to build a new Ward at the "Lord Irvings' Hospital" in Jamnagar which will then be at the disposal of the children.

The food in the camp is good and substantial. The children are also allowed to use my gardens, swimming pools, and tennis courts—all of which I have put at their disposal. Moreover, one of my private houses has been turned into a school. The

school language is Polish, but the children are learning English as well. One of the chaplains of the Polish Army is at present commandant of the camp.

The camp is divided into several sections which are joined by gravel paths. The children have given them Polish names, and planted shrubs and flowers wherever possible. A few days after the children's arrival a great celebration took place in the camp. I was present myself, too. The Polish flag was hoisted, and the Polish National Anthem sung by the children's choir. The children named the principal street of the camp in my honour, and desired, moreover, that one of the main streets of rebuilt Warsaw after the war should bear my name. This decision was confirmed by Gen. Sikorski with whom I had a cordial talk not long ago. I am extremely glad to be able to help the Polish Children. I am deeply moved by the sufferings of the people of Poland who are so gallantly fighting against brutal force.

My father was always interested in the Polish cause, owing to his friendship with that great Polish artist and statesman, Paderewski, whom he frequently met in Geneva. I remember one of these meetings myself, my father had taken me with him to Geneva, and there he introduced me to his friend, Paderewski. During the ensuing conversation, the great artist noticed my hands, and remarked that they were very suitable for piano-playing. My father, however, said at once, "Yes, he has got flexible fingers all right, but no hearing at all!"

My father's friendship with Paderewski caused me to become interested in Poland, too; and now, when Poland is suffering so terribly and more than a million Poles are scattered all over the earth, while the Polish Armies are fighting on all fronts—I am also trying to do everything in my power to save those poor Polish children who, after all they had to endure, must now recover their full strength so that they can serve their country well as soon as it is free once more."

POLISH STALL AT THE UNITED NATIONS' FETE

The Polish stall at the United Nations' Fete, which was opened by Lady Lumley on December 4th, proved a great success.

The Polish Union in India with the help of the Ladies' Committee of the War Gifts Fund organised the Polish Stall.

The Stall, decorated according to the conception of the well-known Polish painter, Mr. S. Norblin, whose pictures have been exhibited at the Royal Academy in London, attracted the general

attention of the public. The walls of the Stall as well as the counters were covered with blue cloth; on the main wall the Polish National emblem—the White Eagle—was displayed on the white and red Polish Flag as its background. Two mural paintings by Mr. S. Norblin, representing battle scenes of the Polish Army and adorning one of the side walls, were very impressive indeed, and Lady Lumley during the inauguration ceremony made a special reference to these paintings.

Articles offered for sale included linen, linen-cloth, laces and dolls dressed in attractive costumes typical of various parts of Poland. The dolls were in great demand and were all sold out at prices varying from Rs. 40 to Rs. 85 each.

Calendars, post-cards, Polish Christmas cards, letterweights, were sold in the propaganda corner, where one could also get the November issue of the monthly "Polish News" published in Bombay and distributed gratuitously.

A special stand was reserved for Polish books and for books on Poland published during the war, as well as for the Polish newspapers published in various languages all over the world. A photograph of the Polish Underground Press deserves special mention.

A very beautiful model of a Polish merchantman, donated by the crew of a Polish ship, which was one of the attractions of the Stall, was raffled for more than Rs. 500/-

Some Polish ladies were dressed in gorgeous national costumes, viz: Mrs. W. Knoffowa as a peasant from Silesia; Mrs. E. Lindenberger as a country-woman of the Krakow region, and Mrs. A. Nadel as a peasant from the Poznan district, Mrs. H. Ordonowna as a country-woman from Krakow, Mrs. W. Szpiro as a peasant from the Hucul region, and Mrs. G. Zmijewska as a country-woman from Volhynia, together with ladies of the Ladies' Committee, were responsible for running the Stall. Mrs. Hanka Ordonowna, a Polish *disease* well known not only in Poland but also in the U.S.A. and U. K., dressed in national costumes, danced with great success on the Free French stage.

We must state that the efforts of all the participants in organising and running the Stall were crowned with success including the financial side of this outstanding event. In particular we are grateful to Lady Blackwell, Mrs. Donald Hill, Mrs. Tidd, Mrs. Dubash and Mrs. Topen who have worked so very hard at the Polish Stall that they often had no time to take their lunch or dinner. The financial success of the Polish Stall is principally due to these Ladies.